

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSO-00 /071 W

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R 221418Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4685

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJ: GOI POLICY TOWARD WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS

REF: TEL AVIV 6399

1. ACCORDING TO ISRAELI PRESS, ISRAELI CABINET WILL DISCUSS POLICY TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW WESTBANK SETTLEMENTS IN NEAR FUTURE. HAARETZ NOVEMBER 20 REPORTED THAT A NUMBER OF MINISTERS HAVE CALLED FOR CABINET DISCUSSION ON STEPPING UP TEMPO OF NEW SETTLEMENTS. THESE UNNAMED MINISTERS REPORTEDLY BELIEVE THAT GOI SHOULD CREATE MORE SETTLEMENT IN JORDAN VALLEY, AT MAALEH HA'ADUMIM (NEAR JERUSALEM) AND ON (UNSPECIFIED) MOUNTAIN IN SAMARIA. HATZOFEH NOVEMBER 14 ALSO REPORTED THAT GOI MAY SOON DISCUSS PROPOSALS RE ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SETTLEMENTS, IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH HAD SO FAR BEEN POSTPONED FOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL REASONS. HATZOFE SPECULATES THAT NEW SETTLEMENTS MAY BE GOI'S ANSWER TO ARAFAT'S UN APPEARANCE.

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2. HAARETZ POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT GOLAN NOVEMBER 19, IN

LENGTHY COMMENTARY, URGES GOI TO DEMONSTRATE FACT THAT ISRAEL IS STILL HOLDING OCCUPIED TERRITORIES BY ESTABLISHING NEW SETTLEMENTS. GOLAN ARGUES THAT RABAT SUMMIT CONFERENCE AND ARAFAT'S UN SPEECH HAVE INVALIDATED ARGUMENTS OF THOSE WHO OPPOSED NEW SETTLEMENTS, SINCE FOR TIME BEING THERE IS NO PARTNER FOR NEGOTIATIONS RE TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE ON WEST BANK. TAKING NOTE OF US OBJECTIONS TO GOI SETTLEMENT POLICY, GOLAN ARGUES THAT AMERICAN ANNOYANCE DOES NOT MEAN THAT US WOULD ABANDON ISRAEL, GIVEN VITAL US STRATEGIC INTEREST IN MAINTAINING A STRONG ISRAEL. MOREOVER, ARABS IGNORED US INTERESTS AT RABAT WITHOUT ANY APPARENT NEGATIVE IMPACT ON US-ARAB RELATIONS.

3. MAPAM MK DOV ZAKIN, IN COURSE OF BROAD DISCUSSION OF GOI FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY NOV 21, HAS TOLD US THAT IN HIS JUDGMENT RABIN HAS BEEN RESISTING DOMESTIC PRESSURES FOR NEW SETTLEMENTS AS PART OF HIS OVERALL POLICY TO LEAVE OPEN ALL POSSIBLE DOORS FOR NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENTS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT LIMITED CONCESSIONS TO PRO-SETTLEMENT SENTIMENT PROBABLY WOULD BE NECESSARY.

4. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT PRESSURES FOR NEW GOI DECISIONS RE SETTLEMENTS ARE ON THE INCREASE, GIVEN NRP ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT AND ISRAELI REACTION TO POST-RABAT SITUATION.
KEATING

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